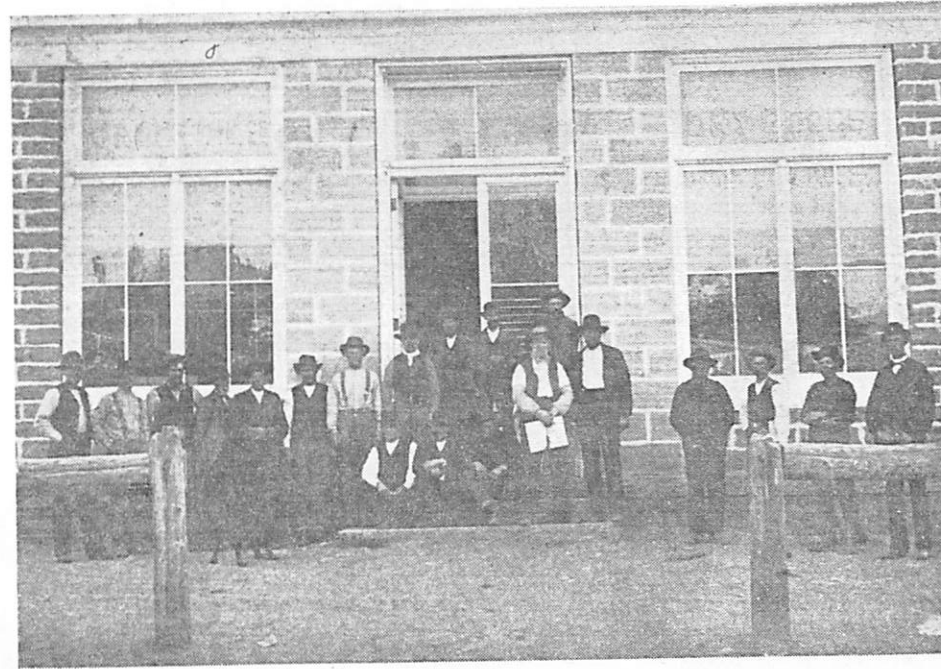


sion rather than a desire to alleviate hardship caused by exorbitant prices. Thus it was that Abram Hatch and John W. Witt, both merchants at the beginning of the cooperative period, pooled their stock into a larger store and called it the Heber Co-op. This business was carried on in the south room of President Hatch's home on Main Street.

Both Midway and Charleston were scenes of similar ventures. In Midway the co-op was directed by David Van Wagonen and in Charleston by Nymphas C. Murdock.

The story of the Charleston Co-op is an interesting



A. Hatch & Co.

Front of A Hatch & Co.; Standing: James McNaughton, John Bell, James Murdock, Chas. Shelton, William Brett, Thomas Clothworthy, Heber Rasband, Barney Riley, Ludwig Anderson, Joseph Hatch, Sr., Joseph Hatch, Jr., John Witt, Isaac (Babe) Cummings, Bishop Henry Clegg, Alex Fortie, Thomas Watson, Dr. Glanville.

and, in some details, romantic illustration of mercantile trade. The store began in a box in Nymphas C. Murdock's kitchen.¹⁰ One of the early valley settlers, and the first bishop, Charles Ward, settled on a ranch about one mile south of the present Charleston town. He and five or six neighbors formed a partnership to establish a merchandise store. The amount subscribed was fifty dollars' worth of grain to be sold before the goods with which to stock the store were purchased.¹¹ The business was carried on in the kitchen of the bishop's ranch for twelve years when a site in the central part of Charleston was chosen and here the store was built. In 1890 the Charleston Co-op was incorporated with a capital stock of \$10,000 and dollars divided into two thousand shares at \$5.00 each.

In the new locality the Charleston Co-op became a county institution. A creamery and lumber business were established in connection with it. Business for the milling and creamery business were carried on and this meant that those who logged lumber ran accounts at the Co-op.¹² Even so, the store was in the upstairs room by Mrs. Ellen Baker, from American Fork.

The store's large stock of merchandise included hardware; paint and oil; glass; wallpaper; furniture; stocks of shoes for men, women, and children; goods and notions; ladies' and children's clothing; overalls and work shirts; drugs; groceries and other goods.¹³ In time trade grew so large that two new sections were added to the original building.

¹⁰Edith North, "Business in Charleston," MSS, of the Utah Pioneers Historical Collection, Heber City, p. 1.

¹¹Wasatch Wave, December 21, 1906, p. 12.

¹²James Ritchie, "Charleston," MSS, (Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Historical Collection, Heber City, 1952), p. 2.